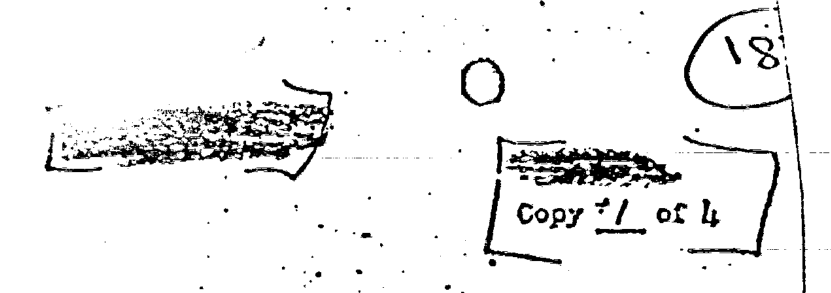


19 October 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR INFORMATION

SUBJECT: Reported Sighting of Unconventional Aircraft

1. The objects reportedly sighted by [redacted] are described to be similar to Project "Y" which is in the research stage at Avro Aircraft Ltd., Canada, under contract to the US Air Force.

2. Several design studies have been made on Project "Y". The present study calls for a circular wing 30 ft. in diameter and about 1.1 ft. thick. Its performance is to be as follows:

Speed M	=	3
Rate of climb	=	120,000 ft. min.
Ceiling	=	102,000 ft.
Range	=	700 n.m.

3. The present effort consists of wind tunnel testing sponsored to the extent of $800,000 by the US Air Force.

4. Project "Y" is being directed by John Frost. Mr. Frost is reported to have obtained his original idea for the flying machine from a group of Germans just after World War II. The Soviets may also have obtained information from this German group.

5. Since two objects were reportedly seen in operation at one time in an area where it is most unlikely that experimental flying would be conducted, it is likely that these objects were in service. This would indicate very rapid progress in this development for the Soviets. It does, however, seem inconsistent that the Soviets, if they have such an object in service, would continue their large development and production programs on conventional type aircraft.

6. Since our first information on Project "Y" in early 1953, ASD has been on the alert for information which might indicate that the Soviets were working on such a project. Prior to the sighting by [redacted] no such information has been available.

[redacted]

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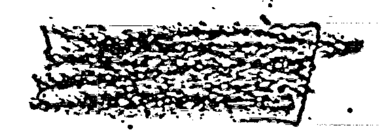
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3. In order to properly evaluate the report by [redacted] and group, it will be necessary to have additional information and details of the sighting. The Air Force has made arrangements for technically competent persons to question the party.

Release

W. E. LEXOW
Chief, Applied Science Division, SI

SI/ASD EBowers:mnf

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[redacted]